VLCF Results

Since its inception in 1999, more than \$40 million has been allocated to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, of which \$8.8 million was allocated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. These funds help leverage additional conservation dollars from federal, local, and private sources. For example, the 2007 grant round of \$6.2 million leveraged an additional \$18.7 million in matching funds.

In other words, for every dollar the state invested, it got four dollars in conservation on the ground. Funding for the Foundation has not been steady, however, and has never matched the documented demand (over \$87 million in grant requests through 2008, or nearly \$51 million more than what was available).

Through 2008, VLCF grants have helped protect over 31,270 acres of Virginia's most important lands, from farms on the Eastern Shore, to parkland in Chesterfield, to Civil War battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley. Many lands protected through VLCF provide public recreational use and access to significant natural-resource lands.

The VLCF grant program is a critical component of the Commonwealth's land protection efforts, along with the Purchase of Development Rights Program and tax credits. The map in this brochure shows the location of all VLCF grant awards from 1999 to 2009.

How Does VLCF Work?

The Foundation administers a fund used for matching grants to localities, other public bodies, and nonprofit organizations and grants to state agencies for purchasing land or easements for conservation. Part of the fund also goes directly to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation for the acquisition of conservation easements. An interagency workgroup reviews all grant applications and recommends projects to the VLCF Board for approval.

Grants are provided for projects that fall into one or more of the following four categories:

- Farmlands and Forest Preservation
- Historic Area Preservation
- Natural Area Protection
- Open Spaces and Parks

The Foundation is overseen by a 19-member board, with the Secretary of Natural Resources serving as its Chairman. Members are appointed by the Governor, the Senate, and the House of Delegates with members from each of Virginia's 11 Congressional Districts, ensuring representation from all corners of the Commonwealth. The Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry is also a member. The Director of DCR serves as the Foundation's Executive Secretary.



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The Commonwealth's working farms and forests, natural areas, parks, rivers, battlefields and other historic sites are critical to our economy, our culture, and our quality of life. In many ways, Virginia is defined by its land and waters.

With such unmatched resources, however, comes responsibility: the responsibility to conserve and protect these special places for future generations. The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) works to do just that.

In 1999, Virginia's governor and the General Assembly established the VLCF to help protect Virginia's most important lands. Funds from the Foundation are used to establish permanent conservation easements and to purchase open spaces and parklands, lands of historic or cultural significance, lands for hunting, fishing and wildlife watching, farmlands and forests, and natural areas. State agencies, local governments, public bodies and nonprofit groups are eligible to receive grants from the Foundation.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Funded Projects

